

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ACDE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2901

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T VIENNA 4651

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS

MAY 22, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN MAY 22 INFORMAL SESSION OF VIENNA TALKS, ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY FRG REP, NETHERLANDS REP AND US REP, AND EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, POLISH REP STRULAK AND CZECHOSLOVAK DEPREP MEISNER. ATMOSPHERE WAS RELAXED. EASTERN REPS CONTINUED TO STRESS NEED FOR ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO REDUCE FROM OUTSET. ALLIED REPS PRESENTED CASE FOR PRACTICALITY OF TWO-PHASE PROGRAM, REASONS WHY OTHER WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD NOT REDUCE FROM OUTSET, AND INTRODUCED POSSIBILITY OF AGREED FORMULA ON NON-INCREASE OF GROUND FORCES BETWEEN THE TWO PHASES OF NEGOTIATION. EASTERN REPS

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PAID CLOSE ATTENTION TO WORDING OF WESTERN SUGGESTION OF

NO-INCREASE FORMULA AND ASKED A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT IT.
IN LIGHT OF DECISION OF AD HOC GROUP NOT TO GET INTO
DETAIL ON THIS OCCASION, ALLIED REPS DID NOT ENCOURAGE
FURTHER QUESTIONS AT THIS TIME.

2. IN GENERAL DISCUSSION, EASTERN REPS CLAIMED ALLIED REPS
HAD BROADENED AGREED FRAME OF DISCUSSION BY INTRODUCING TOPIC
OF COMMON CEILING AND MAKING ITS ACCEPTANCE A PRE-CONDITION
FOR SOLUTION OF QUESTION OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM
THE OUTSET. THEY THEN PROCEEDED TO ATTACK THE COMMON CEILING
CONCEPT AS INEQUITABLE AND RESULTING IN ONE-SIDED ADVANTAGE
TO WEST, AND TO INSIST ON INCLUSION OF AIR AND NUCLEAR
FORCES IN REDUCTION. KHLESTOV REINTRODUCED SUBJECT OF
DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES, CLAIMING THAT WEST WAS
PROCEEDING UNFAIRLY IN COUNTING CERTAIN EASTERN AIR
DEFENSE TROOPS IN ALLIED TOTAL FOR PACT GROUND FORCES
WHILE OMITTING COMPARABLE WEST EUROPEAN FORCES FROM
NATO GROUND FORCE TOTAL. INDIRECT REFERENCES TO
SYMBOLIC REDUCTION PROPOSAL BEGAN TO REAPPEAR IN INFORMAL
REMARKS OF EASTERN REPS ON MARGIN
OF SESSION. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE NEXT SESSION WOULD
BE HELD ON MAY 28. SITUATION AT THE END OF THE SESSION
WAS SUCH THAT THE EAST COULD BE EXPECTED TO REACT OR
RAISE QUESTIONS ON WESTERN SUGGESTION ON NON-INCREASE
IN NEXT SESSION. END SUMMARY.

REMAINDER OF REPORT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL.HUMES

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